

In the Claims:

- 1-15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~preparing a thermopolymer composition for use in surgery performing a medical procedure~~, comprising the steps of:
selecting a thermopolymer matrix from a group consisting of gutta percha, balata and polyisoprene, or any mixture thereof;
selecting a dispersion compound comprising at least one of titanium and gold;
combining the thermopolymer matrix and the dispersion compound to form a thermopolymer composition; ~~and~~
sterilizing said thermopolymer composition~~[[.]~~; ~~and~~
~~performing at least one of disc nucleus replacement, vertebroplasty, reconstructive facial surgery, breast augmentation and urinary incontinence treatment by heating said sterilized thermopolymer composition to a flowable form and injecting said flowable thermopolymer composition into a respective region of a living body.~~
17. (Original) The method defined in claim 16, wherein the step of sterilizing said thermopolymer composition is accomplished through the use of gamma irradiation.
18. (Original) The method defined in claim 17, wherein the gamma irradiation is applied to the thermopolymer composition in the range of between 25 and 40 kiloGray.
19. (Original) The method defined in claim 16, further comprising the step of:
including in the composition an additive selected from a group consisting of a wax and a resin, and any mixtures thereof, to facilitate flow of the composition.
20. (Original) The method defined in claim 16, wherein the composition is stored in at least one of a compressible tube and a syringe.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said dispersion compound is less than 50 percent by weight of the composition.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the dispersion compound comprises titanium particles forming at least 1 percent by weight of the composition.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the dispersion compound comprises titanium particles forming from 20 to 50 percent by weight of the composition.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the titanium particles are less than about 20 microns in size.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the dispersion compound comprises elongate titanium whiskers.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
combining a zinc additive and said composition such that said zinc additive comprises up to 10 percent by weight of the composition.
27. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a thermopolymer composition for use during surgery performing a medical procedure, comprising the steps of:
providing a thermopolymer matrix from a group consisting of gutta percha, balata and polyisoprene, or any mixture thereof; composition, said thermopolymer composition comprising a combination of:
a thermopolymer matrix selected from a group consisting of gutta percha, balata and polyisoprene, or any mixture thereof; and
a dispersion compound comprising at least one of titanium and gold;
combining said thermopolymer matrix and gold to form a thermopolymer composition; and
sterilizing said thermopolymer composition[[.]]; and

performing at least one of disc nucleus replacement, vertebroplasty, reconstructive facial surgery, breast augmentation and urinary incontinence treatment by heating said sterilized thermopolymer composition to a flowable form and injecting said flowable thermopolymer composition into a respective region of a living body.

28. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 27, wherein the step of sterilizing said thermopolymer composition is accomplished through gamma irradiation.
29. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 28, wherein the gamma irradiation is applied to the thermopolymer composition in the range of between 25 and 40 kiloGray.
30. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 27, further comprising:
combining said thermopolymer composition and an additive selected from a group consisting of a wax and a resin, and any mixtures thereof, to facilitate flow of the composition.
31. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 27, wherein said thermopolymer composition is stored in at least one of a compressible tube and a syringe.
32. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 27, wherein said gold is less than 50 percent by weight of the composition.
33. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a thermopolymer composition for use during surgery performing a medical procedure, comprising the steps of:
combining gutta percha with gold to form a thermopolymer composition; and
sterilizing said thermopolymer composition[.]; and
performing at least one of disc nucleus replacement, vertebroplasty, reconstructive facial surgery, breast augmentation and urinary incontinence treatment by heating said sterilized thermopolymer composition to a flowable form and injecting said flowable thermopolymer composition into a respective region of a living body.

34. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 33, wherein the step of sterilizing said thermopolymer composition is accomplished through gamma irradiation.
35. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 34, wherein the gamma irradiation is applied to the thermopolymer composition in the range of between 25 and 40 kiloGray.
36. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 33, further comprising:
combining said thermopolymer composition and an additive selected from a group consisting of a wax and a resin, and any mixtures thereof, to facilitate flow of the composition.
37. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 33, wherein said thermopolymer composition is stored in at least one of a compressible tube and a syringe.
38. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 33, wherein said gold is less than 50 percent by weight of the composition.